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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/088,947	09/16/2002	Aloys Wobben	970054.414USPC	4672
500	7590	02/26/2004	EXAMINER	
SEED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP PLLC 701 FIFTH AVE SUITE 6300 SEATTLE, WA 98104-7092			OLSON, LARS A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3617	

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/088,947

Applicant(s)

WOBBEN, ALOYS

Examiner

Lars A Olson

Art Unit

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7, 8 and 10-12 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9 and 13-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 September 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. An amendment was received from the applicant on December 4, 2003.
2. Claim 6 has been canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 9 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. A broad range or limitation together with a narrow range or limitation that falls within the broad range or limitation (in the same claim) is considered indefinite, since the resulting claim does not clearly set forth the metes and bounds of the patent protection desired. Note the explanation given by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in *Ex parte Wu*, 10 USPQ2d 2031, 2033 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1989), as to where broad language is followed by "such as" and then narrow language. The Board stated that this can render a claim indefinite by raising a question or doubt as to whether the feature introduced by such language is (a) merely exemplary of the remainder of the claim, and therefore not required, or (b) a required feature of the claims. Note also, for example, the decisions of *Ex parte Steigewald*, 131 USPQ 74 (Bd. App. 1961); *Ex parte Hall*, 83 USPQ 38 (Bd. App. 1948); and *Ex parte Hasche*, 86

USPQ 481 (Bd. App. 1949). In the present instance, claims 9 and 20 each recite the broad recitation "the items of equipment are jointly usable navigational aids", and the claim also recites "in particular radio direction-finding transmitters, light signaling installations and/or radar equipment" which is the narrower statement of the range/limitation.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 13-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over King et al. (US 4,721,412) in view of Hendriks (BE 876,855 A) and Ryan (US 4,003,473).

King et al. discloses an offshore safety escape platform, as shown in Figures 1-10, for an offshore installation, said escape platform being comprised of a mooring location for ships, defined as Part #9, a landing area for helicopters, defined as Part #7, and a common route link, defined as Part #11, from said mooring location and said landing area to said offshore installation, where said mooring location and said landing area are on a common platform, defined as Part #6. A foundation for said escape platform can either be arranged on a seabed, as shown in Figure 1, or supported in a floating manner on a body of water, as shown in Figure 4. Said escape platform further

includes logistical and infrastructural items of equipment, as stated in lines 1-9 of column 3, and in lines 8-12 of column 4.

King et al., as set forth above, discloses all of the features claimed except for the use of an escape platform in combination with an offshore installation in the form of a wind power generating facility, and an escape platform that is positioned relative to a prevailing wind direction at a lee side of an offshore installation.

Hendriks discloses an offshore installation, as shown in Figure 2, in the form of a wind power generating facility with a foundation that is arranged on a seabed.

Ryan discloses an offshore installation, defined as Part #12 in Figure 1, with a common route link, defined as Part #16, and an escape platform, defined as Part #11, that should be positioned on the lee side of said installation, as described in lines 37-46 of column 11.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to utilize an offshore wind power installation, as taught by Hendriks, and an offshore installation with an escape platform that is positioned on a lee side of said installation, as taught by Ryan, in combination with an escape platform as disclosed by King et al. for the purpose of providing an escape platform that facilitates the rescue of personnel during an emergency on an offshore wind power installation by sheltering said escape platform from wind driven wave action.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 13-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 10-12 are allowed.

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Lars Olson whose telephone number is (703) 308-9807.

lo

February 24, 2004

LARS A. OLSON
PATENT EXAMINER

Lars Olson
2/24/04